

INTELLIGENCE

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

~~INTELLIGENCE REPORT~~

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[Redacted]

127204

COUNTRY Germany (French Zone)/France

SUBJECT Agence Europeenne de Presse
(Allgemeiner Europäischer Pressedienst)
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ORIGIN [Redacted]

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1. The Agence Europeenne de Presse (Allgemeiner Europäischer Pressedienst) was founded in 1942 by Yvon Morandat with the support of the Socialist resistance movement, originally to provide London news to illegal resistance papers. A London office was established under Vincent Auriol, Le Troquer, and Daniel Mayer in 1943, and a branch office in Algiers was opened shortly afterwards. Both branches were run commercially by Marcus, an SFIO member of Rumanian Jewish origin.
2. After the liberation of France, AEP moved to 27 rue de la Michodiere, Paris 2e, its present location, and became an agency providing editorial columns and political comments to Socialist and other papers. Contributions were published in French, Spanish, and Italian, and foreign policy assistants were Oreste Rosenfeld, former editor of the Socialist Populaire, and Victor Schiff, former European correspondent of the Daily Herald.
3. At the beginning of 1946, AEP discontinued its editorial service, modernized its technical equipment, and became a straight news agency. Rosenfeld became editor-in-chief, with Piat and Morandat handling political direction, and several well-known SFIO right-wing supporters, including Leon Blum, Auriol, Dumas, and Madame Rosenfeld, appeared as shareholders. After some time, business connections were established with the entire Socialist press of France and with many French provincial democratic newspapers, as well as Socialist papers in Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands, and with some of the Danish, Swedish, and Norwegian press. In the summer of 1946, agreements were made for the exchange of information between AEP and Reuter and INS.
4. At the end of 1945, AEP established an internal service which published a daily column on German affairs, in German, and a daily bulletin of five to ten pages on German political, economic, and cultural matters. With the tacit consent of Gouvernement Militaire, from January 1946 on, AEP comments on German affairs were forwarded daily to Saarbrücken by train and then distributed to Socialist newspapers in Germany.

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5. Since AEP was not licensed by the Allied Powers, this procedure was illegal, and Gouvernement Militaire made several attempts to ban its material from Germany. The ban was never effected, however, because of the intervention of leading SP10 personalities. Some time in 1946, the American ICD also protested against AEP activity in Germany, and the matter was taken up by Bidault in the fall of 1946. AEP then legalized its position by going under Gouvernement Militaire control, observing the following procedure:
 - a. Drafts of all AEP bulletins, editorials, and comments produced in Paris are sent daily to Baden-Baden on the night express.
 - b. The AEP representative in Baden-Baden (Daynard, Fremersbergstrasse 6) submits the drafts to French censorship on the following day.
 - c. After approval, the drafts are reproduced in Baden-Baden and dispatched to newspapers in western Germany and Berlin.
6. By a specific request of Foreign Minister Bidault, AEP had to agree not to furnish news to papers appearing in the French Zone. This restriction is evaded in two ways:
 - a. From seventy to a hundred AEP drafts from Paris are not forwarded to the censors in Baden-Baden but travel with the night train to Mainz and from there are forwarded on the following day directly to AEP subscribers.
 - b. Uncensored news bulletins from Mainz are sent to French Zone newspapers. This phase of the activity is handled by Günther Markscheffel, editor of the Social Democratic paper Freiheit, with the knowledge of General Jacobsen, Governor of Rhein-Hesse, at Mainz, who is an SP10 sympathizer.
7. In June 1947, AEP commissioned its Baden-Baden representative to hire correspondents in Düsseldorf, Frankfurt-am-Main, Munich, and Stuttgart. The basis for this action was the belief of the AEP management in the forthcoming unification of the three western zones of Germany and the resultant representation of German interests in France and England by Germans. With this viewpoint, AEP planned to set up a German news agency based largely on Socialist elements.
8. On 5 September 1947, AEP director Rosenfeld met Sängier, editor in chief of the Deutsche Pressedienst of Hamburg, at Frankfurt to negotiate an exchange agreement between AEP and DPD. Rosenfeld stated that if the agreement ~~was~~ concluded, AEP would drop its original intention of using German correspondents in the British and American Zones. The main points of the contract were settled and formal arrangements are expected to be announced soon.

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